



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

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## Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***AGREEMENT ON ELLSWORTH INDUSTRIAL PARK GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION NEAR; PUBLIC MEETINGS FEB. 24***

CHICAGO (Feb. 13, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Illinois EPA, and the Illinois Attorney General's Office said today that they expect to sign an agreement with a group of companies that may be responsible for contaminated ground water near the Ellsworth Industrial Park, an unincorporated area of Downers Grove, Ill. **[This is a little imprecise as written – the Park is in the Village; the affected downgradient area is mostly, but not entirely, unincorporated]**

The parties have reached a "conceptual agreement." Final details and settlement documents are expected to be finalized in March. The agencies will discuss the agreement and seek comments at a pair of public meetings on Monday, Feb. 24. The meetings will be from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Downers Grove Village Hall, 801 Burlington Ave., Downers Grove.

Representatives from DuPage County and the Village of Downers Grove will also be on hand. **[Do we have confirmation that the Village and County will be there?]**

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While certain details of the agreement are still to be worked out, the government agencies are satisfied that the group of companies plans to spend up to \$4.275 million providing **[perhaps a little misleading – they will be \*paying\* for the hookups, but they will not be \*doing\* the hookups]** municipal drinking water hook-ups to approximately 800 area homes currently served by private wells.

Under the framework of the **prospective** agreement, residents whose wells have been or could be affected by TCE and/or PCE contamination will sign up with the Village of Downers Grove for entry into a low-interest loan program offered by the DuPage County Water Commission to finance the connections and the **potentially** responsible companies will make the loan payments. Separately, Downers Grove will make use of a recent Illinois EPA grant to install infrastructure in the North Belmont Park area, which currently has no water mains. Details regarding the terms and financing are also still to be finalized among the village, county and responsible companies.

The contaminants of concern, trichloroethane and tetrachloroethylene, commonly known as TCE and PCE, are degreasing solvents used widely in industry.

For more information contact Mike Joyce, EPA community involvement coordinator at (312) 353-5546 or Carol Fuller, Illinois EPA community relations coordinator at (217) 524-8807.

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